

From: Eileen T Bender
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 4:12pm
Subject: To whom it may concern:

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While I am aware and appreciative of the contributions, both technological and philanthropical, of Microsoft and the Gates Foundation, I am concerned that the proposed settlement with this company will do nothing to curtail its monopolistic and exclusionary business practices -- practices which seem to fly in the face of their social and ethical commitments. The ethos of exclusion is built in to every product they sell, in effect thwarting the entrepreneurial and creative energies of a free market. This lesson was brought home to me forcibly over the holidays, when I received a gift of a new computer equipped with ab NS XP platform. THE MS software is not only a dominant presence on the desktop, but must be overridden in many cases in order to install the non-MS software which I find necessary to do my work. Sad to say, it is what I as a consumer have come to expect of Microsoft, and I see nothing in the proposed settlement that would restore a consumer's right to choose. Thus, I must boice my disappointment of the proposed settlement, and my hope that it will not be made final until these egregious practices have been curtailed.

Eileen T. Bender
Department of English
Indiana University South Bend
1700 Mishawaka Ave. Box 7111
South Bend, IN 46634
ebender@iusb.edu
574-237-4221